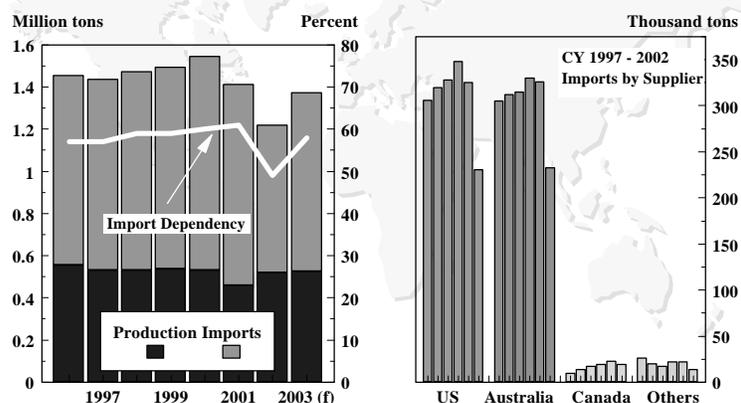


Japan's Beef Situation

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002(p)	2003(f)
(1,000 tons; CWE)								
Beginning Stocks	128	144	131	125	146	158	199	130
Production	555	530	530	537	530	458	550	525
Imports	899	909	943	959	1,016	955	678	850
Exports	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Consumption	1,438	1,452	1,479	1,475	1,534	1,371	1,297	1,350
Ending Stocks	144	131	125	146	158	199	130	155

Japan's Beef Imports to Recover in 2003 But Are Expected to Trigger Safeguard Tariffs



With demand expected to recover as concerns about the safety of beef consumption diminish, beef imports for 2003 are forecast at 850,000 tons, still below pre-BSE levels. As a result of stronger second quarter imports, Japan is expected to trigger a safeguard on beef imports sometime in the summer of 2003. If Japan enacts the safeguard, beef import tariffs will rise from 38.5 percent to 50 percent. These will remain in effect for at least the remainder of Japan's fiscal year 2003, which ends on March 31, 2004. A safeguard action could slow import growth by raising prices of imported beef and shift some imports into the first quarter of 2003 in anticipation of the safeguard announcement.

Japan
BEEF IMPORTS
(metric tons)

Fresh/Chilled

Origin	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Australia	221,811	185,901	188,380	181,936	193,502	201,101	188,958	138,385
Canada	2,445	2,031	2,474	2,368	3,411	5,390	5,936	3,907
New Zealand	8,638	7,401	6,900	5,872	4,029	3,769	3,806	2,576
United States	131,206	125,492	125,492	126,648	133,052	145,650	132,500	89,480
Others	195	35	8,071	110	63	109	46	37
Total	364,295	320,860	331,317	316,934	334,057	356,019	331,246	234,385
US market share	36%	39%	38%	40%	40%	41%	40%	38%

Frozen

Origin	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Australia	93,568	99,769	116,998	129,798	121,180	129,311	135,175	92,115
Canada	3,179	4,278	7,951	11,285	13,980	13,406	16,706	15,143
New Zealand	18,405	19,751	15,991	13,174	11,294	10,034	12,691	7,730
United States	167,253	182,769	172,867	193,523	194,531	202,659	178,560	137,020
Uruguay	0	0	0	234	1,420	6,881	4	0
Others	2,039	2,212	2,189	1,420	910	1,044	565	330
Total	284,444	308,779	315,996	349,434	343,315	363,335	343,701	252,338
US market share	59%	59%	55%	55%	57%	56%	52%	54%

Processed

Origin	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Argentina	1,062	952	518	391	236	268	126	57
Australia	1,115	1,889	2,125	2,233	2,411	2,205	2,320	1,993
Brazil	858	1,023	808	709	1,003	1,266	910	689
China	898	763	630	601	905	898	1,016	655
New Zealand	2,649	2,051	1,707	1,055	1,243	1,380	1,457	1,235
United States	12,827	10,428	8,711	14,231	13,744	13,690	13,667	4,154
Others	2,503	1,328	1,369	1,048	1,693	1,531	1,319	154
Total	21,912	18,434	15,868	20,268	21,235	21,238	20,815	8,937

US market share 59% 57% 55% 70% 65% 64% 66% 46%

Grand Total 670,651 648,073 663,181 686,636 698,607 740,592 695,762 495,660

Total US market share 46% 49% 46% 49% 49% 49% 47% 47%

Source: Japan Customs.

Note: All data reported in Product Weight